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Attorney Docket :  
032405 WN 061

#16/E AF 3634  
1/20/04  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCESSING  
GROUP ART UNIT: 3634

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

**Hirofumi SAKAUE et al.**

Serial No.: 09/752,564

Filed : January 03, 2001

Examiner: G. Strimbu

Art Unit: 3634

For: REAR GATE OPENING AND CLOSING APPARATUS FOR VEHICLE

**AFTER FINAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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JAN 14 2004

**GROUP 3634**

Dear Sir:

A response to the Office Action dated October 10, 2003 (Paper No. 15) is due by January 12, 2004 (January 10, 2004 being a Saturday). Therefore, please accept this Amendment as timely filed.

For the purpose of placing the above-captioned application in immediate condition for allowance, or alternatively, in better form for appeal, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

In response to Paper No. 15, kindly amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

OK to enter per RCE  
Do not enter 1/20/04 GSS